House of Representatives



General Assembly

File No. 25

February Session, 2022

Substitute House Bill No. 5169

House of Representatives, March 16, 2022

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY of the 133rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 12-81g of the general statutes is
- 2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October
- 3 1, 2022, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1,
- 2022):
- 5 (b) (1) Effective for the assessment year commencing October 1, [2013]
- 6 2022, and each assessment year thereafter, any municipality may, upon
- 7 approval by its legislative body or, in any town in which the legislative
- 8 body is a town meeting, by the board of selectmen, provide that, in lieu
- of the additional exemption prescribed under subsection (a) of this
- 10 section, any person entitled to an exemption from property tax in
- 11 accordance with subdivision (20) of section 12-81, reflecting any increase
- 12 made pursuant to the provisions of section 12-62g, as amended by this

act, who has a disability rating of one hundred per cent, as determined 13 14 by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, shall be entitled to 15 an additional exemption from such tax in an amount equal to three times 16 the amount of the exemption provided for such person pursuant to 17 subdivision (20) of section 12-81, provided such person's total adjusted 18 gross income as determined for purposes of the federal income tax, [plus 19 any other income not included in such adjusted income,] excluding veterans' disability payments, individually if unmarried, or jointly with 20 21 spouse if married, during the calendar year ending immediately 22 preceding the filing of a claim for any such exemption, is not more than 23 twenty-four thousand dollars if such person is married or not more than 24 twenty-one thousand dollars if such person is not married.

- 25 (2) The provisions of this subsection shall not limit the applicability 26 of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section for persons not eligible 27 for the property tax exemption provided by this subsection.
- Sec. 2. Section 12-81cc of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2022*):
 - Any person who has established his or her entitlement to a property tax exemption under [subdivisions] <u>subdivision</u> (19), (20), (22), (23), (24), (25), (26), (28) or (53) of section 12-81 <u>or section 12-81g</u>, as amended by <u>this act</u>, for a particular assessment year shall be issued a certificate as to such entitlement by the tax assessor of the relevant municipality. Such person shall be entitled to such exemption in any municipality in this state for such assessment year provided a copy of such certificate is provided to the tax assessor of any municipality in which such exemption is claimed and further provided such person would otherwise have been eligible for such exemption in such municipality if he or she had filed for such exemption as provided under the general statutes.
- Sec. 3. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 12-170e of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*, 2022):

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(2) The amounts of income at each level of qualifying income, as provided in the table in subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall be adjusted annually in a uniform manner to reflect the annual inflation adjustment in Social Security income. Each such adjustment of qualifying income shall be determined to the nearest one hundred dollars and shall be applicable in determining the amount of grant allowed under this subsection with respect to charges for rents, electricity, gas, water and fuel actually paid during the preceding calendar year. Each such adjustment of qualifying income shall be prepared by the [Commissioner of Housing] Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in relation to the annual inflation adjustment in Social Security, if any, becoming effective at any time during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the first day of October each year and shall be distributed to the assessors in each municipality not later than the thirty-first day of December next following.

- Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 12-170f of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):
- (a) Any renter, believing himself or herself to be entitled to a grant under section 12-170d for any calendar year, shall apply for such grant to the assessor of the municipality in which the renter resides or to the duly authorized agent of such assessor or municipality on or after April first and not later than October first of each year with respect to such grant for the calendar year preceding each such year. Such application shall be made on a form prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or electronically in a manner prescribed by the secretary. Municipalities that require notarization of a landlord verification of property rental on an application under this section (1) shall exempt a renter from the requirement if a landlord verification for the same property rental by the same renter has been previously notarized, and (2) shall not delay submission of the application of an otherwise qualified renter to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management if the renter fails to meet the deadline for notarizing such landlord verification. A renter may apply to the

secretary prior to [December] November fifteenth of the claim year for an extension of the application period. The secretary may grant such extension in the case of extenuating circumstance due to illness or incapacitation as evidenced by a certificate signed by a physician, physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse to that extent, or if the secretary determines there is good cause for doing so. A renter making such application shall present to such assessor or agent, in substantiation of the renter's application, a copy of the renter's federal income tax return, and if not required to file a federal income tax return, such other evidence of qualifying income, receipts for money received, or cancelled checks, or copies thereof, and any other evidence the assessor or such agent may require. When the assessor or agent is satisfied that the applying renter is entitled to a grant, such assessor or agent shall issue a certificate of grant in such form as the secretary may prescribe and supply showing the amount of the grant due.

Sec. 5. Subsections (c) and (d) of section 7-325 of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(c) The clerk of each district created pursuant to this chapter or any provisions of the general statutes or any special act, shall report to the town clerk of each town in which such district is located: (1) If created by approval of a petition pursuant to subsection (a) of this section on or after July 1, 1987, within seven days of such approval; and (2) on or before July 31, 1993, and Janually thereafter for each such district, irrespective of the date of creation] any time the charter or special act of such district is amended. The first report filed after the creation of a district shall include a list of the officers of such district, a copy of the charter or special act of such district and such other information on the organization and the financial status of such district as the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management may recommend. A copy of the charter or special act of such district shall be included in any subsequent report if such charter or special act was amended after the date of the previous filing. No district, irrespective of the date of creation, created by approval of a petition pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall

exist as a body corporate and politic until the clerk of such district has

- filed at least one report required by this subsection. If a district is located
- in more than one town, the report shall be filed by the district clerk with
- the town clerk of each town in which the district is located.
- (d) [Any fine imposed on and after July 1, 1992, on a clerk for failure
- to file a report required pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall
- be waived.] Not later than July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the tax
- 121 collector of each district shall submit a statement to the Secretary of the
- 122 Office of Policy and Management on a form prescribed by the secretary.
- 123 Such statement shall include complete information concerning the mill
- rate and tax levy in the district for the preceding year. Any tax collector
- who neglects to submit a true and correct statement shall forfeit one
- 126 <u>hundred dollars to the state.</u>
- Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 19a-308 of the general statutes is
- repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*,
- 129 2022):
- 130 (a) In any town in which there is a burial ground or cemetery
- containing more than six places of interment [and not under the control
- or management of any currently functioning cemetery association,] that
- has been neglected and allowed to grow up to weeds, briars and bushes,
- or about which the fences have become broken, decayed or dilapidated,
- the selectmen of such town may cause such burial ground or cemetery
- to be cleared of weeds, briars and bushes, may mow the ground's lawn
- areas and may cause its fences or walls to be repaired and kept in
- orderly and decent condition and its memorial stones to be straightened,
- 139 repaired and restored.
- Sec. 7. Section 12-62 of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 141 following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2022, and
- applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2023):
- 143 (a) As used in this chapter:
- 144 (1) "Assessor" means the person responsible for establishing property

assessments for purposes of a town's grand list and includes a board of assessors;

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- (2) "Field review" means the process by which an assessor, a member of an assessor's staff or person designated by an assessor examines each parcel of real property in its neighborhood setting, compares observable attributes to those listed on such parcel's corresponding property record, makes any necessary corrections based on such observation and verifies that such parcel's attributes are accounted for in the valuation being developed for a revaluation;
- (3) "Full inspection" or "fully inspect" means to measure or verify the exterior dimensions of a building or structure and to enter and examine the interior of such building or structure in order to observe and record or verify the characteristics and conditions thereof, provided permission to enter such interior is granted by the property owner or an adult occupant;
- (4) "Planning region" has the same meaning as provided in section 4 124i;
- [(4)] (5) "Real property" means all the property described in section 163 12-64;
- [(5)] (6) "Revaluation" or "revalue" means to establish the present true and actual value of all real property in a town as of a specific assessment date;
- 167 (7) "Revaluation zone" means one of five geographic areas in the state
 168 established by the secretary utilizing the boundaries of the planning
 169 regions;
- [(6)] (8) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or said secretary's designee; and
- [(7)] (9) "Town" means any town, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough.

(b) (1) (A) Commencing October 1, 2006, and until September 30, 2023, each town shall implement a revaluation not later than the first day of October that follows, by five years, the October first assessment date on which the town's previous revaluation became effective, provided, a town that opted to defer a revaluation, pursuant to section 12-62l, shall implement a revaluation not later than the first day of October that follows, by five years, the October first assessment date on which the town's deferred revaluation became effective. The town shall use assessments derived from each such revaluation for the purpose of levying property taxes for the assessment year in which such revaluation is effective and for each assessment year that follows until the ensuing revaluation becomes effective.

(B) Commencing October 1, 2023, (i) each town shall implement a revaluation not later than the first day of October that follows, by five years, an October first assessment date set in accordance with a revaluation date schedule prescribed by the secretary for each revaluation zone, (ii) any town's required revaluation subsequent to any delayed revaluation implemented pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision shall be implemented in accordance with this section, and (iii) any such revaluation subsequent to any delayed revaluation or revaluation implemented prior to such scheduled date shall recommence on the date set in such revaluation date schedule prescribed for the revaluation zone in which such town is located, which revaluation date schedule applied to such town prior to such delay or scheduled date. The town shall use assessments derived from each such revaluation for the purpose of levying property taxes for the assessment year in which such revaluation is effective and for each assessment year that follows until the ensuing revaluation becomes effective.

(2) When conducting a revaluation, an assessor shall use generally accepted mass appraisal methods which may include, but need not be limited to, the market sales comparison approach to value, the cost approach to value and the income approach to value. Prior to the completion of each revaluation, the assessor shall conduct a field review. Except in a town that has a single assessor, the members of the

board of assessors shall approve, by majority vote, all valuations established for a revaluation.

- (3) An assessor, member of an assessor's staff or person designated by an assessor may, at any time, fully inspect any parcel of improved real property in order to ascertain or verify the accuracy of data listed on the assessor's property record for such parcel. Except as provided in subdivision (4) of this subsection, the assessor shall fully inspect each such parcel once in every ten assessment years, provided, if the full inspection of any such parcel occurred in an assessment year preceding that commencing October 1, 1996, the assessor shall fully inspect such parcel not later than the first day of October of 2009, and shall thereafter fully inspect such parcel in accordance with this section. Nothing in this subsection shall require the assessor to fully inspect all of a town's improved real property parcels in the same assessment year and in no case shall an assessor be required to fully inspect any such parcel more than once during every ten assessment years.
- (4) An assessor may, at any time during the period in which a full inspection of each improved parcel of real property is required, send a questionnaire to the owner of such parcel to (A) obtain information concerning the property's acquisition, and (B) obtain verification of the accuracy of data listed on the assessor's property record for such parcel. An assessor shall develop and institute a quality assurance program with respect to responses received to such questionnaires. If satisfied with the results of said program concerning such questionnaires, the assessor may fully inspect only those parcels of improved real property for which satisfactory verification of data listed on the assessor's property record has not been obtained and is otherwise unavailable. The full inspection requirement in subdivision (3) of this subsection shall not apply to any parcel of improved real property for which the assessor obtains satisfactory verification of data listed on the assessor's property record.
- (c) The following shall be available for public inspection in the assessor's office, in the manner provided for access to public records in

subsection (a) of section 1-210, not later than the date written notices of real property valuations are mailed in accordance with subsection (f) of this section: (1) Any criteria, guidelines, price schedules or statement of procedures used in such revaluation by the assessor or by any revaluation company that the assessor designates to perform mass appraisal or field review functions, all of which shall continue to be available for public inspection until the town's next revaluation becomes effective; and (2) a compilation of all real property sales in each neighborhood for the twelve months preceding the date on which each revaluation is effective, the selling prices of which are representative of the fair market values of the properties sold, which compilation shall continue to be available for public inspection for a period of not less than twelve months immediately following a revaluation's effective date. If the assessor changes any property valuation as determined by the revaluation company, the assessor shall document, in writing, the reason for such change and shall append such written explanation to the property card for the real estate parcel whose revaluation was changed. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to permit the assessor to post a plan or drawing of a dwelling unit of a residential property's interior on the Internet or to otherwise publish such plan or drawing.

(d) (1) The chief executive officer of a town shall notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management that the town is effecting a revaluation by sending a written notice to the secretary not later than thirty days after the date on which such town's assessor signs a grand list that reflects assessments of real property derived from a revaluation. Any town that fails to effect a revaluation for the assessment date required by this section shall be subject to a penalty effective for the fiscal year commencing on the first day of July following such assessment date, and continuing for each successive fiscal year in which the town fails to levy taxes on the basis of such revaluation, provided the secretary shall not impose such penalty with respect to any assessment year in which the provisions of subsection (b) of section 12-117 are applicable. Such penalty shall be the forfeit of the amount otherwise allocable to such town pursuant to section 7-536, and the loss of fifty per cent of the amount of the grant that is payable to such town

pursuant to sections 3-55i, 3-55j and 3-55k. Upon imposing said penalty, the secretary shall notify the chief executive officer of the amount of the town's forfeiture for said fiscal year and that the secretary's certification to the State Comptroller for the payments of such grant in said year shall reflect the required reduction.

(2) The secretary may waive such penalty if, in the secretary's opinion, there appears to be reasonable cause for the town not having implemented a revaluation for the required assessment date, provided the chief executive officer of the town submits a written request for such waiver. Reasonable cause shall include: (A) An extraordinary circumstance or an act of God, (B) the failure on the part of any revaluation company to complete its contractual duties in a time and manner allowing for the implementation of such revaluation, and provided the town imposed the sanctions for such failure provided in a contract executed with said company, (C) the assessor's death or incapacitation during the conduct of a revaluation, which results in a delay of its implementation, or (D) an order by the superior court for the judicial district in which the town is located postponing such revaluation, or the potential for such an order with respect to a proceeding brought before said court. The chief executive officer shall submit such written request to the secretary not earlier than thirty business days after the date on which the assessor signs a grand list that does not reflect real property assessments based on values established for such required revaluation, and not later than thirty days preceding the July first commencement date of the fiscal year in which said penalty is applicable. Such request shall include the reason for the failure of the town to comply with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. The chief executive officer of such town shall promptly provide any additional information regarding such failure that the secretary may require. Not later than sixty days after receiving such request and any such additional information, the secretary shall notify the chief executive officer of the secretary's decision to grant or deny the waiver requested, provided the secretary may delay a decision regarding a waiver related to a potential court order until not later than sixty days after the date such court renders the decision. The secretary shall not

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grant a penalty waiver under the provisions of this subsection with respect to consecutive years unless the General Assembly approves such action.

- (e) When conducting a revaluation, an assessor may designate a revaluation company certified in accordance with section 12-2b, as amended by this act, to perform [property] parcel data collection, analysis of such data and any mass appraisal valuation or field review functions, pursuant to a method or methods the assessor approves, and may require such company to prepare and mail the valuation notices required by subsection (f) of this section, provided nothing in this subsection shall relieve any assessor of any other requirement relating to such revaluation imposed by any provisions of the general statutes, any public or special act, the provisions of any municipal charter that are not inconsistent with the requirements of this section, or any regulations adopted pursuant to subsection (g) of this section.
- (f) Not earlier than the assessment date that is the effective date of a revaluation and not later than the tenth calendar day immediately following the date on which the grand list for said assessment date is signed, the assessor shall mail a written notice to the last-known address of the owner of each parcel of real property that was revalued. Such notice shall include the valuation of such parcel as of said assessment date and the valuation of such parcel in the last-preceding assessment year, and shall provide information describing the property owner's rights to appeal the valuation established for said assessment date, including the manner in which an appeal may be filed with the board of assessment appeals.
- (g) The secretary shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, which an assessor shall use when conducting a revaluation. Such regulations shall include (1) provisions governing the management of the revaluation process, including, but not limited to, the method of compiling and maintaining property records, documenting the assessment year during which a full inspection of each parcel of improved real property occurs, and the method of determining

real property sales data in support of the mass appraisal process, and (2) provisions establishing criteria for measuring the level and uniformity of assessments generated from a revaluation, provided such criteria shall be applicable to different classes of real property with respect to which a sufficient number of property sales exist. Certification of compliance with not less than one of said regulatory provisions shall be required for each revaluation and the assessor shall, not later than the date on which the grand list reflecting assessments of real property derived from a revaluation is signed, certify to the secretary and the chief executive officer, in writing, that the revaluation was conducted in accordance with said regulatory requirement. Any town effecting a revaluation with respect to which an assessor is unable to certify such compliance shall be subject to the penalty provided in subsection (d) of this section. In the event the assessor designates a revaluation company to perform mass appraisal valuation or field review functions with respect to a revaluation, the assessor and the employee of said company responsible for such function or functions shall jointly sign such certification. The assessor shall retain a copy of such certification and any data in support thereof in the assessor's office. The provisions of subsection (c) of this section concerning the public inspection of criteria, guidelines, price schedules or statement of procedures used in a revaluation shall be applicable to such certification and supporting data.

- (h) This section shall require the revaluation of real property (1) designated within the 1983 Settlement boundary and taken into trust by the federal government for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation before June 8, 1999, or (2) taken into trust by the federal government for the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut.
- (i) Each assessor shall file with the secretary parcel data from each revaluation implemented pursuant to this section upon forms prescribed and furnished by the secretary, which forms shall be so prescribed and furnished not later than thirty days prior to the date set by such secretary for such filing.

Sec. 8. Section 12-62g of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

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In conjunction with each municipal revaluation of property in accordance with section 12-62, <u>as amended by this act,</u> each municipality shall increase (1) the amount of the exemption granted pursuant to subdivisions (19), (20), (21), (22), (23), (24), (25) and (26) of section 12-81, and (2) the amount of the exemption that each municipality may allow pursuant to section 12-81f, for such year and for each subsequent assessment year by multiplying the amount of exemption in each of said subdivisions by a multiplier determined by dividing the net taxable grand list for such year of revaluation by the net taxable grand list of the last year prior to such revaluation <u>and rounding</u> off the product to the nearest integer.

- Sec. 9. Subsection (c) of section 12-55 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October* 1, 2022):
 - (c) Each notice of assessment increase sent pursuant to this section shall include: (1) The gross valuation, net valuation and any exempt amounts prior to and after such increase; and (2) information describing the manner in which an appeal may be filed with the board of assessment appeals. If a notice of assessment increase affects the value of personal property and the assessor or board of assessors used a methodology to determine such value that differs from the methodology previously used, such notice shall include a statement concerning such change in methodology, which shall indicate the current methodology and the one that the assessor or assessors used for the valuation prior to such increase. Each such notice shall be mailed not earlier than the assessment date and not later than the tenth calendar day immediately following the date on which the assessor or board of assessors signs and attests to the grand list. If any such assessment increase notice is sent later than the time period prescribed in this subsection, such increase shall become effective on the next succeeding grand list.

Sec. 10. Section 12-89 of the general statutes is repealed and the

following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2022*):

- (a) The assessor or board of assessors of each town, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough shall inspect the statements and applications filed [with it and required by] pursuant to sections 12-81 and 12-87 [from scientific, educational, literary, historical, charitable, agricultural and cemetery organizations, shall] and determine what part, if any, of the property claimed to be exempt [by the organization shall be] is in fact exempt. [and] The assessor or board of assessors shall place a valuation upon all such property, if any, as is found to be taxable, provided any property acquired by any tax-exempt organization after the first day of October shall first become exempt on the assessment date next succeeding the date of acquisition.
- (b) Upon the denial in whole or in part of a statement or application inspected pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the assessor or board of assessors shall mail a written notice of such denial to the last known address of the taxpayer or organization. Such notice shall be mailed not earlier than the assessment date and not later than the tenth calendar day immediately following the date on which the assessor or board of assessors signs and attests to the grand list pursuant to section 12-55, as amended by this act. Such notice shall include (1) the gross assessed valuation of the property, the amounts of any exemption granted and the net taxable valuation of the property, and (2) a statement that the taxpayer or organization may appeal the decision of the assessor or board of assessors pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.
- (c) Any <u>taxpayer or</u> organization filing a tax-exempt statement <u>or</u> <u>application for exemption</u>, aggrieved at the action of the assessor or board of assessors, may appeal, within the time prescribed by law for such appeals, to the board of assessment appeals. Any such <u>taxpayer or</u> organization claiming to be aggrieved by the action of the board of assessment appeals may, within two months from the time of such action, make application in the nature of an appeal therefrom to the superior court for the judicial district in which such property is situated.

Sec. 11. Subsection (f) of section 4-66l of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

(f) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of the grant payable to a municipality in any year in accordance with subsection (d) of this section shall be reduced if such municipality increases its adopted budget expenditures for such fiscal year above a cap equal to the amount of adopted budget expenditures authorized for the previous fiscal year by 2.5 per cent or more or the rate of inflation, whichever is greater. Such reduction shall be in an amount equal to fifty cents for every dollar expended over the cap set forth in this subsection. For the purposes of this section, (A) "municipal spending" does not include expenditures for debt service, special education, implementation of court orders or arbitration awards, expenditures associated with a major disaster or emergency declaration by the President of the United States, a disaster emergency declaration issued by the Governor pursuant to chapter 517 or any disbursement made to a district pursuant to subsection (c) or (e) of this section, budgeting for an audited deficit, nonrecurring grants, capital expenditures or payments on unfunded pension liabilities, (B) "adopted budget expenditures" includes expenditures from a municipality's general fund and expenditures from any nonbudgeted funds, and (C) "capital expenditure" means a nonrecurring capital expenditure of one hundred thousand dollars or more. Each municipality shall annually certify to the secretary, on a form prescribed by said secretary, whether such municipality has exceeded the cap set forth in this subsection and if so the amount by which the cap was exceeded, except that in any fiscal year for which the secretary publishes a list of payments made to municipalities by state agencies on the Internet web site of the Office of Policy and Management, such certification shall not be required.

(2) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of the grant payable to a municipality in any year in accordance with subsection (d) of this section shall not be reduced in

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the case of a municipality whose adopted budget expenditures exceed the cap set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection by an amount proportionate to any increase to its municipal population from the previous fiscal year, as determined by the secretary.

- Sec. 12. Subsection (d) of section 12-129b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*, 2022):
 - (d) If any person with respect to whom a claim for tax relief in accordance with this section and section 12-129c has been approved for any assessment year transfers, assigns, grants or otherwise conveys subsequent to the first day of October, but prior to the first day of August in such assessment year the interest in real property to which such claim for tax relief is related, regardless of whether such transfer, assignment, grant or conveyance is voluntary or involuntary, the amount of such tax relief benefit, determined as the amount by which the tax payable without benefit of this section exceeds the tax payable under the provisions of this section, shall be a pro rata portion of the amount otherwise applicable in such assessment year to be determined by a fraction the numerator of which shall be the number of full months from the first day of October in such assessment year to the date of such conveyance and the denominator of which shall be twelve. If such conveyance occurs in the month of October the grantor shall be disqualified for such tax relief in such assessment year. The grantee shall be required within a period not exceeding ten days immediately following the date of such conveyance to notify the assessor thereof, or in the absence of such notice, upon determination by the assessor that such transfer, assignment, grant or conveyance has occurred, the assessor shall (1) determine the amount of tax relief benefit to which the grantor is entitled for such assessment year with respect to the interest in real property conveyed and notify the tax collector of the reduced amount of such benefit, and (2) notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management on or before the October first next following the end of the assessment year in which such conveyance occurs of the reduction in such benefit for purposes of a corresponding adjustment in

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the amount of state payment to the municipality next following as reimbursement for the revenue loss related to such tax relief. On or after December 1, 1989, any municipality which neglects to transmit to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management the adjustment as required by this section shall forfeit two hundred fifty dollars to the state, provided said secretary may waive such forfeiture in accordance with procedures and standards adopted by regulation in accordance with chapter 54. Upon receipt of such notice from the assessor, the tax collector shall, if such notice is received after the tax due date in the municipality, [within ten days thereafter] not later than thirty days after such receipt, mail or hand a bill to the grantee stating the additional amount of tax due as determined by the assessor or assessors. Such tax shall be due and payable and collectible as other property taxes and subject to the same liens and processes of collection, provided such tax shall be due and payable in an initial or single installment not sooner than thirty days after the date such bill is mailed or handed to the grantee and in equal amounts in any remaining, regular installments as the same are due and payable.

Sec. 13. Subsection (i) of section 12-170aa of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

(i) If any person with respect to whom a claim for tax reduction in accordance with this section has been approved for any assessment year transfers, assigns, grants or otherwise conveys on or after the first day of October but prior to the first day of August in such assessment year the interest in real property to which such claim for tax credit is related, regardless of whether such transfer, assignment, grant or conveyance is voluntary or involuntary, the amount of such tax credit shall be a pro rata portion of the amount otherwise applicable in such assessment year to be determined by a fraction the numerator of which shall be the number of full months from the first day of October in such assessment year to the date of such conveyance and the denominator of which shall be twelve. If such conveyance occurs in the month of October the grantor shall be disqualified for tax credit in such assessment year. The

grantee shall be required within a period not exceeding ten days immediately following the date of such conveyance to notify the assessor thereof by mail or electronic mail, in a manner prescribed by the assessor, or in the absence of such notice, upon determination by the assessor that such transfer, assignment, grant or conveyance has occurred, the assessor shall (1) determine the amount of tax reduction to which the grantor is entitled for such assessment year with respect to the interest in real property conveyed and notify the tax collector of the reduced amount of tax reduction applicable to such interest, and (2) notify the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management on or before the October first immediately following the end of the assessment year in which such conveyance occurs of the reduction in such tax reduction for purposes of a corresponding adjustment in the amount of state payment to the municipality next following as reimbursement for the revenue loss related to such tax reductions. On or after December 1, 1987, any municipality which neglects to transmit to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management the claim as required by this section shall forfeit two hundred fifty dollars to the state provided the secretary may waive such forfeiture in accordance with procedures and standards established by regulations adopted in accordance with chapter 54. Upon receipt of such notice from the assessor, the tax collector shall, if such notice is received after the tax due date in the municipality, [within ten days thereafter] not later than thirty days after such receipt, mail, hand or deliver by electronic mail, at the grantee's option, a bill to the grantee stating the additional amount of tax due as determined by the assessor. Such tax shall be due and payable and collectible as other property taxes and subject to the same liens and processes of collection, provided such tax shall be due and payable in an initial or single installment not sooner than thirty days after the date such bill is mailed or handed to the grantee and in equal amounts in any remaining, regular installments as the same are due and payable.

Sec. 14. Section 12-129 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*, 2022):

Any person, firm or corporation who pays any property tax in excess

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of the principal of such tax as entered in the rate book of the tax collector and covered by his warrant therein, or in excess of the legal interest, penalty or fees pertaining to such tax, or who pays a tax from which the payor is by statute exempt and entitled to an abatement, or who, by reason of a clerical error on the part of the assessor or board of assessment appeals, pays a tax in excess of that which should have been assessed against his property, or who is entitled to a refund because of the issuance of a certificate of correction, may make application in writing to the collector of taxes for the refund of such amount. Such application shall be delivered or postmarked by the later of (1) three years from the date such tax was due, (2) such extended deadline as the municipality may, by ordinance, establish, or (3) ninety days after the deletion of any item of tax assessment by a final court order or pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (c) of section 12-53, subsection (b) of section 12-57, as amended by this act, or section 12-113. Such application shall contain a recital of the facts and shall state the amount of the refund requested. The collector shall, after examination of such application, refer the same, with his recommendations thereon, to the board of selectmen in a town or to the corresponding authority in any other municipality, and shall certify to the amount of refund, if any, to which the applicant is entitled. The existence of another tax delinquency or other debt owed by the same person, firm or corporation shall be sufficient grounds for denying the application. Upon such denial, any overpayment shall be applied to such delinquency or other debt. Upon receipt of such application and certification, the selectmen or such other authority shall draw an order upon the treasurer in favor of such applicant for the amount of refund so certified. Any action taken by such selectmen or such other authority shall be a matter of record, and the tax collector shall be notified in writing of such action. Upon receipt of notice of such action, the collector shall make in his rate book a notation which will date, describe and identify each such transaction. Each tax collector shall, at the end of each fiscal year, prepare a statement showing the amount of each such refund, to whom made and the reason therefor. Such statement shall be published in the annual report of the municipality or filed in the town clerk's office within sixty days of the

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end of the fiscal year. Any payment for which no timely application is

- 615 made or granted under this section shall permanently remain the
- 616 property of the municipality. Nothing in this section shall be construed
- 617 to allow a refund based upon an error of judgment by the assessors.
- Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the legislative body of a
- 619 municipality may, by ordinance, authorize the tax collector to retain
- 620 payments in excess of the amount due provided the amount of the
- excess payment is less than five dollars.
- Sec. 15. Subsection (b) of section 12-57 of the general statutes is
- repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1,
- 624 2022):
- (b) When it has been determined by the assessors of a municipality,
- at any time, that a motor vehicle registered with the Department of
- Motor Vehicles has been assessed when it should not have been, the
- 628 assessors shall issue a certificate of correction removing such vehicle
- from the list of the person who was assessed in error, and, if such vehicle
- should have been subject to taxation for the same taxing period on the
- grand list of another municipality in this state, the assessors shall
- 632 promptly notify, in writing, the assessors of the municipality where the
- vehicle should be properly assessed and taxed, and the assessors of such
- 634 municipality shall assess such vehicle and shall thereupon issue a
- 635 certificate of correction adding such vehicle to the list of the person
- owning such vehicle, and the tax thereon shall be levied and collected
- by the tax collector. Upon the issuance of a certificate of correction, any
- 638 person taxed in error may make application in writing to the tax
- collector for the refund of the erroneously collected amount pursuant to
- section 12-129, as amended by this act.
- Sec. 16. Subsection (e) of section 12-81a of the general statutes is
- repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*,
- 643 2022):
- (e) Upon receipt of such notice from the assessor, the tax collector of
- 645 the town shall, if such notice is received after the normal billing date,
- [within ten days thereafter] not later than thirty days after such receipt,

mail or hand a bill to the purchaser based upon an amount prorated by the assessor. Such tax shall be due and payable and collectible as other municipal taxes and subject to the same liens and processes of collection; provided such tax shall be due and payable in an initial or single installment due and payable not sooner than thirty days after the date such bill is mailed or handed to the purchaser, and in any remaining, regular installments, as the same are due and payable, and the several installments of a tax so due and payable shall be equal.

Sec. 17. Section 12-128 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

The amount of any tax which has been collected erroneously from any person who has served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Air Force of the United States, or from his relative, as specified in section 12-81, may be recovered from the municipality to which the same has been paid at any time within six years from the date of such payment upon presentation of a claim therefor to the [collector of taxes] assessor. The [collector] assessor shall examine such claim and, upon finding the claimant entitled thereto, shall [certify to that effect to the selectmen of such town or other proper official of such municipality. Upon receipt of such certification, the selectmen or other proper official shall draw an order upon the treasurer in favor of such claimant for the amount, without interest, to which such claimant is entitled] issue a certificate of correction. Upon the issuance of a certificate of correction, any person taxed in error may make application in writing to the collector of taxes for the refund of the erroneously taxed amount. Such application shall contain a recital of the facts and the amount of the refund requested. The tax collector shall, after examination of such application, refer the same, with the tax collector's recommendations thereon, to the board of selectmen in a town or corresponding authority in any other municipality and certify to the amount of refund, without interest, to which the person is entitled. Any payment for which no timely application is made or granted under this section shall be the property of the municipality.

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680 Sec. 18. Section 12-18b of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes

- 681 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July
- 682 1, 2022):
- 683 (a) For the purposes of this section:
- 684 (1) "College and hospital property" means all real property described 685 in subsection (a) of section 12-20a;
- 686 [(2) "District" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-324;]
- 687 [(3)] (2) "Equalized net grand list per capita" means the grand list of a
- 688 municipality upon which taxes were levied for the general expenses of 689
- such municipality three years prior to the fiscal year in which a grant
- 690 under this section is to be paid, equalized in accordance with the
- 691 provisions of section 10-261a and divided by the total population of such
- 692 municipality;
- 693 [(4)] (3) "Municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated
- 694 town and city and consolidated town and borough;
- 695 [(5)] (4) "State, municipal or tribal property" means all real property
- 696 described in subsection (a) of section 12-19a;
- 697 [(6)] (5) "Tier one municipality" means a municipality with an
- 698 equalized net grand list per capita of less than one hundred thousand
- 699 dollars;
- 700 [(7)] (6) "Tier two municipality" means a municipality with an
- 701 equalized net grand list per capita of one hundred thousand dollars to
- 702 two hundred thousand dollars; and
- 703 [(8)] (7) "Tier three municipality" means a municipality with an
- 704 equalized net grand list per capita of greater than two hundred
- 705 thousand dollars.
- 706 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 12-19a and 12-20a, on
- 707 or before May thirtieth, annually, all funds appropriated for state grants
- 708 in lieu of taxes shall be payable to municipalities and fire districts

pursuant to the provisions of this section. On or before January first, annually, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall determine the amount due, as a state grant in lieu of taxes, to each municipality and <u>fire</u> district in this state wherein college and hospital property is located and to each municipality and <u>fire</u> district in this state wherein state, municipal or tribal property, except that which was acquired and used for highways and bridges, but not excepting property acquired and used for highway administration or maintenance purposes, is located. <u>Such determination shall be calculated based on assessed values provided to the Office of Policy and Management prior to the preceding April first, pursuant to section 12-19b, as amended by <u>this act.</u></u>

- (1) The grant payable to any municipality or <u>fire</u> district for state, municipal or tribal property under the provisions of this section in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and each fiscal year thereafter, shall be equal to the total of:
- (A) One hundred per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to any facility designated by the Commissioner of Correction, on or before August first of each year, to be a correctional facility administered under the auspices of the Department of Correction or a juvenile detention center under direction of the Department of Children and Families that was used for incarcerative purposes during the preceding fiscal year. If a list containing the name and location of such designated facilities and information concerning their use for purposes of incarceration during the preceding fiscal year is not available from the Secretary of the State on August first of any year, the Commissioner of Correction shall, on said date, certify to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management a list containing such information;
 - (B) One hundred per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to that portion of the John Dempsey Hospital located at The University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington that is used as a permanent medical ward for prisoners under the custody of

the Department of Correction. Nothing in this section shall be construed

- as designating any portion of The University of Connecticut Health
- 744 Center John Dempsey Hospital as a correctional facility;
- 745 (C) One hundred per cent of the property taxes that would have been 746 paid on any land designated within the 1983 Settlement boundary and 747 taken into trust by the federal government for the Mashantucket Pequot
- 748 Tribal Nation on or after June 8, 1999;
- (D) One hundred per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to the property and facilities owned by the
- 751 Connecticut Port Authority;
- 752 (E) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of section 12-19a, sixty-
- 753 five per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with
- 754 respect to the buildings and grounds comprising Connecticut Valley
- 755 Hospital and Whiting Forensic Hospital in Middletown;
- (F) With respect to any municipality in which more than fifty per cent
- of the property is state-owned real property, one hundred per cent of
- 758 the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to such state-
- 759 owned property;
- 760 (G) Forty-five per cent of the property taxes that would have been
- 761 paid with respect to all municipally owned airports; except for the
- exemption applicable to such property, on the assessment list in such
- 763 municipality for the assessment date two years prior to the
- 764 commencement of the state fiscal year in which such grant is payable.
- 765 The grant provided pursuant to this section for any municipally owned
- airport shall be paid to any municipality in which the airport is located,
- 767 except that the grant applicable to Sikorsky Airport shall be paid one-
- half to the town of Stratford and one-half to the city of Bridgeport;
- (H) One hundred per cent of the property taxes that would have been
- paid with respect to any land designated within the 1983 Settlement
- 771 boundary and taken into trust by the federal government for the
- 772 Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation prior to June 8, 1999, or taken into

trust by the federal government for the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, provided the real property subject to this subparagraph shall be the land only, and shall not include the assessed value of any structures, buildings or other improvements on such land; and

- (I) Forty-five per cent of the property taxes that would have been paid with respect to all other state-owned real property.
- (2) The grant payable to any municipality or <u>fire</u> district for college and hospital property under the provisions of this section in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, and each fiscal year thereafter, shall be equal to the total of seventy-seven per cent of the property taxes that, except for any exemption applicable to any college and hospital property under the provisions of section 12-81, would have been paid with respect to college and hospital property on the assessment list in such municipality or <u>fire</u> district for the assessment date two years prior to the commencement of the state fiscal year in which such grant is payable.
- (c) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall list municipalities, boroughs and <u>fire</u> districts based on the equalized net grand list per capita. Boroughs and <u>fire</u> districts shall have the same equalized net grand list per capita as the town, city, consolidated town and city or consolidated town and borough in which such borough or <u>fire</u> district is located.
- (d) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, and each fiscal year thereafter:
- (1) The total amount of the grants paid to a municipality or <u>fire</u> district pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall not be lower than the total amount of the payment in lieu of taxes grants received by such municipality or fire district for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.
- (2) If the total of grants payable to each municipality and <u>fire</u> district in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes of said subsection for a fiscal year:

(A) Each tier one municipality shall receive fifty per cent of the grant amount payable to such municipality as calculated under subsection (b) of this section;

- (B) Each tier two municipality shall receive forty per cent of the grant amount payable to such municipality as calculated under subsection (b) of this section; and
- (C) Each tier three municipality shall receive thirty per cent of the grant amount payable to such municipality as calculated under subsection (b) of this section.
- (3) Each municipality designated as an alliance district pursuant to section 10-262u or in which more than fifty per cent of the property is state-owned real property shall be classified as a tier one municipality.
- 816 (4) Each <u>fire</u> district shall receive the same percentage of the grant amount payable to the municipality in which it is located.
 - (5) (A) If the total of grants payable to each municipality and <u>fire</u> district in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes of said subsection, but such appropriated amount exceeds the amount required for grants payable to each municipality and <u>fire</u> district in accordance with the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection, the amount of the grant payable to each municipality and <u>fire</u> district shall be increased proportionately.
 - (B) If the total of grants payable to each municipality and <u>fire</u> district in accordance with the provisions of subdivisions (1) to (4), inclusive, of this subsection exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes of said subdivisions, the amount of the grant payable to each municipality and <u>fire</u> district shall be reduced proportionately, except that no grant shall be reduced below the amount set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection.
 - (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (d), inclusive, of this section:

(1) The grant payable to any municipality or fire district with respect to a campus of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs 837 Connecticut Healthcare Systems shall be one hundred per cent;

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- (2) For any municipality receiving payments under section 15-120ss, property located in such municipality at Bradley International Airport shall not be included in the calculation of any state grant in lieu of taxes pursuant to this section; and
- (3) The city of Bridgeport shall be due five million dollars, on or before the thirtieth day of September, annually, which amount shall be in addition to the amount due such city pursuant to the provisions of subsections (b) or (d) of this section.
- 846 (f) For purposes of this section, any real property that is owned by the 847 John Dempsey Hospital Finance Corporation established pursuant to 848 the provisions of sections 10a-250 to 10a-263, inclusive, or by one or 849 more subsidiary corporations established pursuant to subdivision (13) 850 of section 10a-254 and that is free from taxation pursuant to the 851 provisions of section 10a-259 shall be deemed to be state-owned real 852 property.
- 853 Sec. 19. Subsection (a) of section 12-19b of the 2022 supplement to the 854 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu 855 thereof (Effective July 1, 2022):
 - (a) Not later than April first in any assessment year, any town, borough or <u>fire</u> district [, as defined in section 7-324,] to which a grant is payable under the provisions of section 12-18b, as amended by this act, or 12-19a shall provide the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management with the assessed valuation of the real property eligible therefor as of the first day of October immediately preceding, adjusted in accordance with any gradual increase in or deferment of assessed values of real property implemented in accordance with section 12-62c, which is required for computation of such grant. Any town, borough or fire district that neglects to transmit to the secretary the assessed valuation as required by this section shall forfeit two hundred fifty

dollars to the state, provided the secretary may waive such forfeiture in accordance with procedures and standards adopted by regulation in accordance with chapter 54. Said secretary may, on or before the first day of August of the state fiscal year in which such grant is payable, reevaluate any such property when, in the secretary's judgment, the valuation is inaccurate and shall notify such town, borough or fire district of such reevaluation by certified or registered mail. Any town, borough or fire district aggrieved by the action of the secretary under the provisions of this section may, not later than ten business days following receipt of such notice, appeal to the secretary for a hearing concerning such reevaluation. Such appeal shall be in writing and shall include a statement as to the reasons for such appeal. The secretary shall, not later than ten business days following receipt of such appeal, grant or deny such hearing by notification in writing, including in the event of a denial, a statement as to the reasons for such denial. Such notification shall be sent by certified or registered mail. If any town, borough or fire district is aggrieved by the action of the secretary following such hearing or in denying any such hearing, the town, borough or fire district may not later than ten business days after receiving such notice, appeal to the superior court for the judicial district wherein such town, borough or fire district is located. Any such appeal shall be privileged.

Sec. 20. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 8-30j of the 2022 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) (1) Not later than June 1, 2022, and at least once every five years thereafter, each municipality shall prepare or amend and adopt an affordable housing plan for the municipality and shall submit a copy of such plan to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management. [, who shall post such plan on the Internet web site of said office.] Such plan shall specify how the municipality intends to increase the number of affordable housing developments in the municipality.

Sec. 21. Section 12-2b of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2022*):

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The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management shall: (1) In consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture, develop schedules of unit prices for property classified under sections 12-107a to [12-107e] <u>12-107d</u>, inclusive, update such schedules by October 1, 1990, and every five years thereafter, and make such data, studies and schedules available to municipalities and the public; (2) develop regulations setting forth standards and tests for: Certifying revaluation companies and their employees, which regulations shall ensure that a revaluation company is competent in appraising and valuing property, certifying revaluation companies and their employees, requiring that a certified employee supervise all valuations performed by a revaluation company for municipalities, maintaining lists of certified revaluation companies and upon request, advising municipalities in drafting contracts with revaluation conducting companies, and investigations and withdrawing the certification of any revaluation company or employee found not to be conforming to such regulations. The regulations shall provide for the imposition of a fee payable to a testing service designated by the secretary to administer certification examinations; and (3) by himself, or by an agent whom he may appoint, inquire if all property taxes which are due and collectible by each town or city not consolidated with a town, are in fact collected and paid to the treasurer thereof in the manner prescribed by law, and if accounts and records of the tax collectors and treasurers of such entities are adequate and properly kept. The secretary may hold meetings, conferences or schools for assessors, tax collectors or municipal finance officers.

926 Sec. 22. Sections 7-148dd, 12-19c, 12-63i and 12-63j of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1*, 2022)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2022, and	12-81g(b)
Section	applicable to assessment	12 018(0)
	years commencing on or	
	after October 1, 2022	
Sec. 2	October 1, 2022, and	12-81cc
	applicable to assessment	
	years commencing on or	
	after October 1, 2022	
Sec. 3	July 1, 2022	12-170e(a)(2)
Sec. 4	July 1, 2022	12-170f(a)
Sec. 5	from passage	7-325(c) and (d)
Sec. 6	July 1, 2022	19a-308(a)
Sec. 7	July 1, 2022, and	12-62
	applicable to assessment	
	years commencing on or	
	after October 1, 2023	
Sec. 8	October 1, 2022	12-62g
Sec. 9	October 1, 2022	12-55(c)
Sec. 10	October 1, 2022, and	12-89
	applicable to assessment	
	years commencing on or	
	after October 1, 2022	
Sec. 11	July 1, 2022	4-66l(f)
Sec. 12	July 1, 2022	12-129b(d)
Sec. 13	July 1, 2022	12-170aa(i)
Sec. 14	July 1, 2022	12-129
Sec. 15	July 1, 2022	12-57(b)
Sec. 16	July 1, 2022	12-81a(e)
Sec. 17	July 1, 2022	12-128
Sec. 18	July 1, 2022	12-18b
Sec. 19	July 1, 2022	12-19b(a)
Sec. 20	from passage	8-30j(a)(1)
Sec. 21	July 1, 2022	12-2b
Sec. 22	July 1, 2022	Repealer section

PD Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 23 \$	FY 24 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	Neglected	See Below	See Below
	Cemeteries		
	Account -		
	Potential Cost		

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: See Below

Explanation

The bill (1) expands a local option property tax exemption, (2) expands local authority to maintain neglected cemeteries and burial grounds, and (3) requires the Office of Policy and Management to establish a standard revaluation schedule for towns in each of the nine regional Councils of Government. The impact of these provisions is described below.

Local Option Property Tax

This results in a potential grand list reduction in certain municipalities. It does so by expanding the number of veterans eligible for an optional property tax exemption for totally disabled veterans equal to three times the base exemption for which they are eligible. It is estimated that this exemption results in a property tax reduction of about \$315 per taxpayer at the average statewide mill rate. A grand list reduction shifts the property tax burden away from recipients of the exemption.

It is not known how many municipalities currently offer this

exemption, or how many veterans would become eligible as a result of the bill's provisions.

Cemetery Maintenance

The bill results in a potential cost to municipalities that choose to increase the amount of maintenance they perform on neglected cemeteries as a result of the bill. Any cost is potentially offset by any funding a municipality would receive from the Neglected Cemetery Account, a non-appropriated account maintained by the Office of Policy and Management.

To the extent that the bill results in more reimbursement to municipalities for cemetery maintenance, the bill may also result in increased costs to the Neglected Cemetery Account.

Revaluation Zones

The bill requires the Office of Policy and Management to establish five revaluation zones, and establishes a standard revaluation schedule for each zone. This results in a potential change in the timing of 1) costs incurred by municipalities as a result of conducting revaluation, and 2) shifts in municipal grand lists that occur as a result of revaluation.

The bill also requires assessors to submit assessment parcel data to the Office of Policy and Management. This has no fiscal impact.

The bill makes several other changes regarding assessment, assessment appeals and property tax collection that have no fiscal impact. These changes do not impact the amount of property tax levied in any town, or the overall cost of assessing and taxing property in any town.

The bill makes other technical and clarifying changes that have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The ongoing above identified fiscal impact to the Neglected

Cemeteries Account and to municipalities will continue into the future subject to 1) costs incurred by municipalities in cemetery maintenance; and 2) changes to municipal grand lists and mill rates.

OLR Bill Analysis sHB 5169

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION WITHIN THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT.

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

§ 1 — 100% DISABLED VETERANS' TAX EXEMPTION

Expands eligibility by changing how income is calculated for a local option property tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans

§ 2 — VETERANS' EXEMPTION PORTABILITY

Makes portable certain property tax exemptions for veterans if an eligible veteran moves within the state during the tax year

§§ 3 & 4 — RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM

Makes November 15 the deadline for requesting an application extension; makes OPM, not DOH, responsible for adjusting eligible income levels annually

§ 5 — SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS

Changes the conditions under which special taxing districts must report to the host municipality's town clerk and requires districts to report annually to OPM

§ 6 — NEGLECTED CEMETERIES

Expands municipal authority to maintain neglected cemeteries and burial grounds, thereby expanding the purposes for which municipalities can use Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program funds

<u>§ 7 — REGIONAL REVALUATIONS AND DATA SUBMISSION</u> REQUIREMENT

Requires municipalities to conduct revaluations pursuant to an OPM-designated regional revaluation schedule and submit parcel data to OPM

§§ 8, 14, 15 & 17 — OTHER MINOR PROPERTY TAX CHANGES

Makes several minor changes in the property tax statutes

§ 9 — NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT INCREASE

Changes the information that municipalities must include in an assessment increase notice

§ 10 — ASSESSORS' DENIAL OF EXEMPTIONS

Requires assessors to notify taxpayers when they deny certain property tax exemptions

§ 11 — MUNICIPAL SPENDING CAP CERTIFICATION

Eliminates municipal reporting to OPM about the municipal spending cap under specified circumstances

§§ 12, 13 & 16 — ADD-ON TAX BILLS FOLLOWING PROPERTY TRANSFER

Extends tax collectors' timeframe for sending out add-on bills

§§ 18-19 & 22 — PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT) PROGRAMS

Makes minor and technical changes to the state, municipal, and tribal property and college and hospital property PILOT programs

§ 20 — POSTING OF MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLANS

Eliminates the requirement that OPM post these municipal plans on its website

§ 21 — PA 490 PROGRAM

Eliminates the requirement that OPM establish values for land classified as open space

§ 22 — REPEALERS

Eliminates (1) an obsolete pilot program authorization and (2) requirements related to identifying fiscally distressed municipalities

BACKGROUND

§ 1 — 100% DISABLED VETERANS' TAX EXEMPTION

Expands eligibility by changing how income is calculated for a local option property tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans

Beginning in FY 24, the bill requires municipalities that opt to provide low-income, 100% disabled veterans with three times the base statemandated property tax exemption (see BACKGROUND). to calculate income eligibility using only the veteran's federal adjusted gross income (AGI), excluding (1) veterans' disability payments and (2) any other income not included in AGI. Under current law, any other income not included in the veteran's federal AGI, other than veterans' disability payments, must be added to it for purposes of determining income eligibility. By not including other income, the bill generally expands eligibility for the exemption.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022, and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after that date.

§ 2 — VETERANS' EXEMPTION PORTABILITY

Makes portable certain property tax exemptions for veterans if an eligible veteran moves within the state during the tax year

By law, most property tax exemptions for veterans are portable between municipalities. This means veterans who have established their

entitlement to an exemption remain eligible for it if during the tax year they move to another municipality. (A mid-tax-year move might cause a veteran to miss the application deadline in the municipality he or she moves to.) The bill adds to the list of portable tax exemptions the income-based and a local option veterans' property tax exemption (i.e., exemptions granted under CGS § 12-81g; see BACKGROUND).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022, and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after that date.

§§ 3 & 4 — RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM

Makes November 15 the deadline for requesting an application extension; makes OPM, not DOH, responsible for adjusting eligible income levels annually

By law, older adult or totally disabled individuals seeking a rebate under the Renters' Rebate Program apply annually to local assessors or their agents between April 1 and October 1 for reimbursement for payments made in the preceding calendar year. The bill requires renters with extenuating health circumstances or other good cause, as the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary determines, to apply to OPM by November 15, rather than December 15, for an application deadline extension.

Additionally, the bill requires the OPM secretary, rather than the housing commissioner, to prepare annual Renters' Rebate income eligibility adjustments for distribution to municipal tax assessors, conforming to current practice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

§ 5 — SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICTS

Changes the conditions under which special taxing districts must report to the host municipality's town clerk and requires districts to report annually to OPM

The bill eliminates the requirement that the clerk of each special taxing district, whether established under the statutes or by a special act of the General Assembly, annually report to the town clerk of the host municipality. Instead, the bill requires district clerks to notify the town clerk whenever the district's home rule charter or special act charter is

amended. Currently, any revised charter must be included in the district's annual report.

Beginning July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter, the bill requires each district's tax collector to submit to OPM a statement of the district's mill rate and tax levy for the preceding year. The OPM secretary must prescribe the form, which must require districts to provide "complete information" about the district's mill rate and tax levy. (It is not clear what constitutes "complete information," but presumably it includes the information OPM requires on the form.) Tax collectors who do not file true and correct statements as required by the bill must forfeit \$100 to the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 6 — NEGLECTED CEMETERIES

Expands municipal authority to maintain neglected cemeteries and burial grounds, thereby expanding the purposes for which municipalities can use Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program funds

Under current law, municipalities can undertake certain maintenance of cemeteries and burial grounds that (1) have more than six places of interment; (2) are not under the control or management of a functioning cemetery association; and (3) show certain signs of neglect, including weeds or damage to fences. The bill allows municipalities to perform maintenance on neglected cemeteries regardless of whether a functioning cemetery association oversees them. It also expands the type of work that can be done on memorial stones to include repairing and restoring the stones. (Currently, municipalities may only straighten the stones.)

By expanding municipal authority to maintain neglected cemeteries and burial grounds, the bill also expands the purposes for which municipalities can use Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program funds. By law, municipalities may use these OPM-distributed grants to pay for maintenance that the neglected cemetery and burial ground law authorizes (CGS § 19a-308b).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

§ 7 — REGIONAL REVALUATIONS AND DATA SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

Requires municipalities to conduct revaluations pursuant to an OPM-designated regional revaluation schedule and submit parcel data to OPM

Regional Revaluation Schedule

Under the bill, the OPM secretary must use the state's planning region boundaries (i.e., councils of governments' boundaries) to designate five revaluation zones. Municipalities in each zone will conduct their revaluations in the same year as other municipalities in the zone. Beginning with the October 1, 2023, assessment year, municipalities must conduct their revaluations pursuant to this OPM-designated revaluation schedule. The bill requires certain municipalities that delayed implementing a revaluation during the 2003, 2004, or 2005 assessment year to implement future revaluations pursuant to OPM's regional revaluation schedule.

As under existing law, municipalities must conduct revaluations every five years. The bill retains provisions in existing law governing revaluation methods, processes, and other requirements.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, allows municipalities to enter into agreements to establish regional revaluation schedules, subject to OPM's approval (CGS § 12-62q).

Submission of Parcel Data to OPM

The bill requires assessors to file with the OPM secretary parcel data from each implemented revaluation. The data must be filed on forms he creates, and he must provide the forms to assessors at least 30 days before they are due.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022, and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after October 1, 2023.

§§ 8, 14, 15 & 17 — OTHER MINOR PROPERTY TAX CHANGES

Makes several minor changes in the property tax statutes

The bill also makes the following minor property tax changes:

1. clarifying how calculations are rounded when property tax exemptions for veterans increase after a municipality implements a revaluation (§ 8);

- 2. explicitly requiring a real, personal, or motor vehicle tax overpayment to be applied to other delinquent taxes the taxpayer owes in the same municipality (§ 14);
- 3. explicitly authorizing tax collectors to refund motor vehicle tax payments when a vehicle was taxed in a municipality in which it was not taxable (§ 15); and
- 4. (a) making assessors, rather than tax collectors, responsible for veterans' tax benefit determinations in cases where a veteran was erroneously denied specified tax benefits and applies for a certificate of correction and (b) specifying the modified process for the veteran to apply to the tax collector for a refund from a municipality (§ 17).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022, except the veterans' exemption calculation change is effective October 1, 2022.

§ 9 — NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT INCREASE

Changes the information that municipalities must include in an assessment increase notice

By law, a municipality must provide an assessment increase notice when it increases an assessment (valuation) on property other than a motor vehicle in a non-revaluation year. Currently, it must only notify the property owner of the old and new valuation. The bill instead requires municipalities to provide information on the new and old gross valuation, exemptions, and net valuation. Presumably, municipalities are only responsible for providing information on exemptions for which a property owner has applied and has been deemed entitled to.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

§ 10 — ASSESSORS' DENIAL OF EXEMPTIONS

Requires assessors to notify taxpayers when they deny certain property tax exemptions

Existing law requires boards of assessors (i.e., assessors) to determine what portion of the property held by scientific, educational, literary, historical, charitable, agricultural, and cemetery organizations is exempt and assess any property they determine to be taxable. They must do so by inspecting the statements or applications the organizations must file to claim their property tax exemptions.

The bill requires assessors, upon denying a tax exemption application, to mail a written notice of the decision to the applicant's last known address and include with it (1) the gross assessed value of the property; (2) the amount of any exemption granted; (3) the net taxable property value; and (4) a statement that the assessor's decision is appealable.

The notice must be mailed after the October 1 assessment date but no more than 10 calendar days after the grand list is signed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022, and applicable to assessment years beginning on or after that date.

§ 11 — MUNICIPAL SPENDING CAP CERTIFICATION

Eliminates municipal reporting to OPM about the municipal spending cap under specified circumstances

Under current law, municipalities must annually certify to the OPM secretary whether they comply with the municipal spending cap law. The bill waives this requirement for any fiscal year in which the OPM secretary publishes a list of payments made to municipalities by state agencies on its website.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

§§ 12, 13 & 16 — ADD-ON TAX BILLS FOLLOWING PROPERTY TRANSFER

Extends tax collectors' timeframe for sending out add-on bills

The bill gives tax collectors 30, instead of 10, days to send out add-on

tax bills in situations where a change in property ownership affects a tax exemption or abatement. The bill applies the new 30-day timeframe to tax bills sent out following the transfer of property that is the subject of relief under:

- 1. the Freeze Tax Relief Program (§ 12),
- 2. the Circuit Breaker Program (§ 13), or
- 3. any other provision that made it tax-exempt or eligible for an abatement prior to the transfer (§ 16).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

§§ 18-19 & 22 — PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT) PROGRAMS

Makes minor and technical changes to the state, municipal, and tribal property and college and hospital property PILOT programs

The bill specifies that PILOT grants should be paid to municipalities and fire districts annually by May 30. It correspondingly eliminates the current process by which OPM certifies to the comptroller the amounts due, which are then paid by September 30 (§ 22).

Additionally, in conformity with current practice, the bill specifies that only fire districts, rather than all special taxing districts, are eligible for PILOT grants.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

§ 20 — POSTING OF MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING PLANS

Eliminates the requirement that OPM post these municipal plans on its website

The bill eliminates the requirement that OPM post municipalities' submitted affordable housing plans on its agency website.

Existing law requires every municipality, at least once every five years, to prepare or amend and adopt an affordable housing plan specifying how the municipality will increase the number of affordable housing developments in its jurisdiction. By law and unchanged by the bill, municipalities must post their plans on their websites.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 21 — PA 490 PROGRAM

Eliminates the requirement that OPM establish values for land classified as open space

The bill eliminates a provision that requires the OPM secretary, in consultation with the agriculture commissioner, to develop a schedule of unit prices for property classified as open space under the PA 490 Program.

Connecticut's PA 490 Program allows four classifications of land – farm, forest, open space, and maritime heritage – to be assessed at their current use value, rather than their fair market value.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

§ 22 — REPEALERS

Eliminates (1) an obsolete pilot program authorization and (2) requirements related to identifying fiscally distressed municipalities

The bill eliminates an obsolete pilot program enacted in 2014 under which assessors would have been able to value commercial property based on net profit, rather than income and expenses. The pilot program never commenced (CGS §§ 12-63i & 12-63j).

The bill also eliminates certain requirements related to fiscally distressed municipalities to reflect other structures (e.g., the Municipal Accountability Review Board, created in 2017) for identifying and overseeing these municipalities. Specifically, the bill eliminates a requirement that the OPM secretary annually submit to the governor information on municipal fiscal disparities, including a list of municipalities with comparatively high mill rates and low per capita grand list values; information on low-income municipalities; and municipalities with a decreasing population. It also eliminates the required responses to the OPM report (i.e., a gubernatorially convened meeting of municipal leaders and a report to the legislature) (CGS § 7-148dd).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

Veterans' Property Tax Exemptions

By law, municipalities must exempt from taxation a base amount of \$1,000 to \$3,500 (adjusted each revaluation to reflect increases in a town's taxable grand list) of the property owned by a veteran or his or her surviving spouse (CGS § 12-81(19) & (20)). (This is often called the basic exemption.) Veterans who receive this basic exemption are also eligible for the additional income-based exemption.

For a veteran whose income falls below a certain limit, the additional exemption is equal to 200% of the basic exemption (CGS § 12-81g(a)). For a veteran whose income exceeds the limit, the additional exemption is 50% of the basic exemption (CGS § 12-81g(d)). (This is often called the income-based exemption.)

Instead of the income-based exemption, municipalities may opt to provide 100% disabled veterans who meet specified income requirements with three times the amount provided under the basic exemption (CGS § 12-81g(b)). (This is a municipal option exemption.)

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Yea 25 Nay 1 (03/04/2022)